



HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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COVID-19 Update

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A Newton resident is among the presumptive positive COVID-19 cases announced by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health on Sunday afternoon. This resident is a parent of a Newton Public School student.

The family is complying with the self-quarantine protocol provided MDPH, and the Newton Health and Human Services Department is following up with any additional contacts of this case. The student does not have symptoms of COVID-19.

The NPS Facilities Department conducted cleaning and disinfecting at the school prior to opening on Monday. NPS has strengthened cleaning protocols at all schools, with a focus on high touch points. NPS is closely monitoring hand towels and soap dispensers to ensure regular refill and has purchased a large supply of hand sanitizer to be distributed to all schools. [NPS staff and families were notified by email Sunday evening.](#)

There are five presumptive positive COVID-19 cases in Middlesex County as of 3/8/20. These five presumptive positive cases are linked to a recent Biogen event.

Local health departments, including Newton HHS, conduct contact investigations of confirmed and presumptive positive COVID-19 cases, in collaboration with MDPH. This helps to prevent further spread by having contacts of cases self-quarantine.

There are updated recommendations for people at higher risk — older adults and people who have chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes, lung disease. CDC has suggestions for extra precautions to take to avoid getting sick. More information <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>

Hearing news of cases of COVID-19 may be unsettling for some in our community. City staff, including those in the HHS Department, Executive Office of the Mayor, the NPS and many other city departments are working hard to answer questions, allay fears and prepare for what continues to be an evolving public health concern. Resources, information and updates are available here: www.newtonma.gov/covid19.